

B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as reflected in the following claim listing:

1. **(Currently Amended)** An integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube, comprising:

- (a) a shaft defining a longitudinal axis;
- (b) ~~an x-ray tube component~~ a target anode disposed on said shaft; and
- (c) means for exerting and transmitting a radial force to said target anode, wherein said means for exerting and transmitting a radial force controls radial movement of said ~~x-ray tube component~~ target anode with respect to said longitudinal axis defined by said shaft.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 1, wherein said means for exerting and transmitting a radial force ~~substantially prevents~~ undesired radial movement of said ~~component~~ target anode when said ~~component~~ target anode is in a desired radial position.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 1, wherein said means for exerting and transmitting a radial force at least partially controls axial movement of said ~~component~~ target anode along said longitudinal axis defined by said shaft.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 3, wherein said shaft further comprises a support member and said means for exerting and transmitting a radial force cooperates with said support member to substantially prevent undesired axial movement of said target anode component when said component is in a desired axial position.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 1, wherein said means for exerting and transmitting a radial force moves said target anode component to a desired radial position during assembly of the integrated component mounting system.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 5, wherein when said target anode component is in said desired position, said target anode component is centered with respect to said longitudinal axis.

7. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 5, wherein when said target anode component is in said desired position, said target anode component is off-center with respect to said longitudinal axis.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 1, wherein said means for exerting and transmitting a radial force automatically centers said target anode component with respect to said longitudinal axis during assembly of the integrated component mounting system.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 1, wherein said means for exerting and transmitting a radial force secures said target anode component to said shaft.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 1, wherein said means for exerting and transmitting a radial force transmits an axial force and a radial force to said target anode component, and said transmission of said axial force and said transmission of said radial force occurs simultaneously.

11. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 1, wherein said means for exerting and transmitting a radial force comprises:

- (a) a nut configured to engage said shaft;
- (b) a first shaped surface defined by said target anode component; and
- (c) a second shaped surface defined either by said shaft or by said nut and arranged for contact with said first shaped surface.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 1, wherein said means for exerting and transmitting a radial force comprises:

- (a) a nut configured to engage said shaft;
- (b) an interface structure that is attached to the target anode component and defines a first shaped surface; and
- (c) a second shaped surface defined either by said shaft or by said nut and arranged for contact with said first shaped surface.

13. **(Cancelled)**

14. **(Currently Amended)** An integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube, comprising:

- (a) a shaft including a support member and defining a longitudinal axis;
- (b) a nut configured to engage said shaft;
- (c) ~~a~~-an x-ray tube target anode component that defines a first shaped surface and is disposed on said shaft between said nut and said support member; and
- (d) a second shaped surfaced defined either by said shaft or by said nut and arranged for contact with said first shaped surface such that a radial force is applied to said target anode component with respect to the longitudinal axis defined by said shaft.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 14, wherein said first shaped surface defines a first inclination angle and said second shaped surface defines a second inclination angle.

16. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 14, wherein said second shaped surface is defined by said shaft.

17. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 14, wherein said second shaped surface is defined by said nut.

18. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 14, wherein said first and second shaped surfaces each describe a portion of a circular curve.

19. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 14, wherein said first and second shaped surfaces each describe a parabolic curve.

20. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 14, wherein said first shaped surface is convex and said second shaped surface is concave.

21. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 14, wherein said first shaped surface is concave and said second shaped surface is convex.

22. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 14, wherein said second shaped surface is defined by said nut, and a third shaped surface is defined by said x-ray tube target anode component and said third shaped surface is arranged for contact with a fourth shaped surface defined by said shaft.

23. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 22, wherein at least two of said first, second, third, and fourth shaped surfaces describe a portion of a circular curve.

24. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 22, wherein at least two of said first, second, third, and fourth shaped surfaces describe a parabolic curve.

25. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 22, wherein said first, second, third, and fourth shaped surfaces each define an inclination angle.

26. **(Cancelled)**

27. **(Currently Amended)** An x-ray tube, comprising:

- (a) a vacuum enclosure;
- (b) a cathode disposed within said vacuum enclosure; and
- (c) an integrated component mounting system comprising:
 - (i) a shaft defining a longitudinal axis;
 - (ii) a target anode disposed on said shaft and positioned within said vacuum enclosure so as to receive electrons emitted by said cathode; and
 - (iii) means for exerting and transmitting a radial force to said target anode, wherein said means for exerting and transmitting a radial force controls radial movement of said target anode with respect to said longitudinal axis defined by said shaft.

28. **(Currently Amended)** The x-ray tube as recited in claim 27, wherein said means for exerting and transmitting a radial force ~~substantially~~ prevents undesired radial movement of said target anode when said target anode is in a desired radial position.

29. **(Original)** The x-ray tube as recited in claim 27, wherein said means for exerting and transmitting a radial force at least partially controls axial movement of said target anode along said longitudinal axis defined by said shaft.

30. **(Original)** The x-ray tube as recited in claim 27, wherein said means for exerting and transmitting a radial force moves said target anode to a desired radial position during assembly of said integrated component mounting system.

31. **(Original)** The x-ray tube as recited in claim 27, wherein said means for exerting and transmitting a radial force automatically centers said target anode with respect to said longitudinal axis during assembly of said integrated component mounting system.

32. **(Original)** The x-ray tube as recited in claim 27, wherein said means for exerting and transmitting a radial force transmits an axial force and a radial force to said target anode, and said transmission of said axial force and said transmission of said radial force occurs simultaneously.

33. **(Original)** The x-ray tube as recited in claim 27, wherein said means for exerting and transmitting a radial force comprises:

- (a) a nut configured to engage said shaft;
- (b) a first shaped surface defined by said target anode; and
- (c) a second shaped surface defined either by said shaft or by said nut and arranged for contact with said first shaped surface.

34. **(Original)** The x-ray tube as recited in claim 33, wherein said first shaped surface defines a first inclination angle and said second shaped surface defines a second inclination angle.

35. **(Original)** The x-ray tube as recited in claim 33, wherein said second shaped surface is defined by said shaft.

36. **(Original)** The x-ray tube as recited in claim 33, wherein said second shaped surface is defined by said nut.

37. **(Original)** The x-ray tube as recited in claim 33, wherein said second shaped surface is defined by said nut, and a third shaped surface is defined by said target anode and said third shaped surface is arranged for contact with a fourth shaped surface defined by said shaft.

38. **(Original)** The x-ray tube as recited in claim 33, wherein said first and second shaped surfaces each describe a portion of a circular curve.

39. **(Original)** The x-ray tube as recited in claim 33, wherein said first and second shaped surfaces each describe a parabolic curve.

40. **(Currently Amended)** An integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube, comprising:

- (a) a shaft including a support member and defining a longitudinal axis;
- (b) a nut configured to engage said shaft;
- (c) an interface structure defining an opening and a first shaped surface;
- (d) ~~an x-ray tube component~~ a target anode that defines an opening wherein said interface structure is received, and said ~~x-ray tube component~~ target anode is disposed on said shaft between said nut and said support member so that said shaft is received within said opening defined by said interface structure; and
- (e) a second shaped surfaced defined either by said shaft or by said nut and arranged for contact with said first shaped surface such that a radial force is applied to said target anode with respect to the longitudinal axis defined by said shaft.

41. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 40, wherein said second shaped surface is defined by said shaft.

42. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 40, wherein said second shaped surface is defined by said nut.

43. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 40, wherein said first shaped surface defines a first inclination angle and said second shaped surface defines a second inclination angle.

44. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 40, wherein said first and second shaped surfaces each describe a portion of a circular curve.

45. **(Currently Amended)** The integrated component mounting system for use in an x-ray tube as recited in claim 40, wherein said first and second shaped surfaces each describe a parabolic curve.

46. **(Cancelled)**